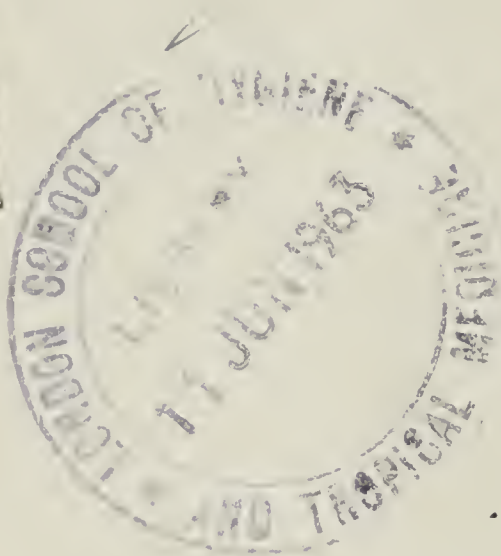


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BEDFORD'S HEALTH
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BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

Annual Report

ON THE

HEALTH OF BEDFORD

FOR THE YEAR

1957

BY

C. L. SHARP, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

together with the Report of

E. AVISON, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1957

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.

September, 1958.

*To HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF BEDFORD*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1957.

Asian Influenza: This much heralded disease duly arrived and caused a brisk epidemic. Luckily there was no sinister change from the predominantly mild type, and further information is given in my report. Diphtheria: After many years of freedom from this disease a case occurred in an Italian child who had acquired it whilst on the Continent. Despite treatment the child died. This underlines in a tragic way the necessity for all children to be immunised against the preventable disease. Further comment is given in the report.

Radio Activity: The Nuclear weapon testing with the inevitable radio active fall-out, the increasing use of radio active isotopes in industry and in the treatment of diseases have focussed public attention on this problem. Interest was further heightened by the Windscale reactor incident. There is a very real danger of the public having an unbalanced view of the hazards. Man has always been exposed to radiation from natural sources (cosmic rays and radioactive rocks). But additional exposure should be kept to a minimum and kept under the most careful scrutiny.

Health departments will need the knowledge and instruments to play their part and one or two authorities have made a start in this direction. Further knowledge will be needed before more precise proposals can be made but the problem is being considered. It is a field in which prevention by planning and forethought is essential.

I wish to mention the helpful part played by the Bedfordshire Times and to convey to them my sincere thanks. Suitable press comment over the need for immunisation against diphtheria published in both English and Italian was, I think, most helpful. Over such measures as fluoridation responsible comment played a major part in preventing any anxiety which might otherwise have been caused by the circulation of alarmist literature.

Public health problems are often complex and the department must work as an integrated team and even so must have, and fortunately does have, the help of other local government departments and voluntary bodies in solving them.

I wish to record my thanks and appreciation for the valuable help and advice that I have had from Dr. W. F. Lane, Director of the Public Health Laboratory, and his staff throughout the year.

I should like to express my sincere appreciation of the support and encouragement I have had from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee: also my thanks to Mr. E. Avison, Chief Public Health Inspector, for his most helpful advice and assistance throughout the year; and to all members of the department for their service throughout the year. Finally I should like to thank Mr. F. J. Dix, Chief Clerk, for his work in compiling the statistics for this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

CLIVE L. SHARP,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(31st December, 1957)

ALDERMAN L. H. NICHOLSON, M.B.E., Chairman

ALDERMAN A. A. JONES, J.P. (The Mayor)

COUNCILLOR A. R. SHARP, Vice-Chairman.

COUNCILLOR COL. A. G. ANSTEE, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., J.P.

COUNCILLOR D. F. BARNSDALE

COUNCILLOR J. DEENEY

COUNCILLOR J. FINNIGAN

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. L. GUAYS

COUNCILLOR MRS. C. M. METZ

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. ROGERS

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

C. L. SHARP, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

F. A. WILLIAMS, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.(Vict.)

Chief Public Health Inspector

E. AVISON, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

E. J. CONSTABLE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors

P. G. ALLSTON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

F. J. O. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I.

R. PEEL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(All the Inspectors are qualified Meat Inspectors)

Chief Clerk

F. J. DIX

Clerks

F. V. BATSON

MISS R. E. HOWE

R. J. DARRINGTON

MISS A. DRAKE

*Disinfectors, Drain Testers, Rodent Destruction Operators,
and Mortuary Attendants*

F. WOOTTON

H. W. COMMINS

J. E. MUNDAY

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

I. VITAL STATISTICS

1. Summary of Statistics

Area of Borough (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	4,972
Population—						
Census 1951	...	...	...	...	...	53,075
Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population for 1957						57,580
Number of Inhabited Houses—						
According to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	17,672
Number of Separate Households—						
Census 1951	...	...	...	...	...	16,301
Rateable Value (December)	...	...	...	...	...	£826,709
Yield of One Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£3,316

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 population
Live Births—						
Legitimate	...	...	1,084	537	547	
Illegitimate	...	...	67	28	39	
Total	...	...	1,151	565	586	Birth Rate— Crude 20.0 Corrected 19.4
Stillbirths—						
Legitimate	...	...	27	9	18	
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1	
Total	...	...	28	9	19	Rate 0.5
Deaths	...	...	539	260	279	Death Rate— Uncorrected 9.4 Corrected 9.3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—						Rate per 1,000
			Total	Male	Female	live births
Legitimate	...	...	20	12	8	
Illegitimate	...	...	2	—	2	
Total	...	...	<u>22</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	19.1

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age—						
			Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate	...	...	16	8	8	
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1	
Total	...	...	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	14.8

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—							
From sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

2. Vital Statistics, Bedford, and England and Wales compared

	Bedford	England and Wales*
BIRTHS—		
Live Births	19.4	16.1
Still Births	0.5	0.37
	23.7 (a)	22.4 (a)
DEATHS—		
All causes	9.3	11.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	0.00
Whooping Cough	—	0.00
Diphtheria	0.02	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.03	0.11
Influenza... ..	0.12	0.15
Smallpox... ..	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polio- encephalitis)	—	0.01
Pneumonia	0.54	0.51
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)—		
Typhoid Fever	—	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.01
Meningococcal Infections	0.07	0.02
Scarlet Fever	1.30	0.66
Whooping Cough	0.73	1.89
Diphtheria	0.02	0.00
Erysipelas	0.05	0.08
Smallpox	—	0.00
Measles	20.93	14.11
Pneumonia	1.44	0.73
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polio- encephalitis)—		
Paralytic	0.10	0.07
Non-paralytic	0.03	0.04
Food Poisoning	0.19	0.20
Puerperal Pyrexia	2.17	0.26
Dysentery	1.74	0.64
	Rates per 1,000 live births	
DEATHS—		
All causes under 1 year of age ...	19.1	23.0(b)
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	0.02	0.5

(a) Per 1,000 Total (live and still) births.
(b) Per 1,000 live births.

*Provisional

3. Population

The population as estimated by the Registrar General for 1957 was 57,580, and as will be seen from the undermentioned table there has been a total increase of population of 3,180 in the last five years on his figures.

POPULATION 1952-1957

Year	Population	Increase over previous year	Natural increase	Difference due to excess of immigration over emigration
1952	54,400			
1953	54,770	370	368	2
1954	55,170	400	463	-63
1955	56,030	860	372	488
1956	56,450	420	567	-147
1957	57,580	1,130	612	518
Total increase, 1952/1957		3,180	2,382	798
Average yearly increase in 5 years		636	476	159

4. Birth Rate

The birth rate for 1957 was 19.4, after multiplying by the comparability factor of 0.97, and that for England and Wales was 16.1. This was the same as the previous year. The crude rate for the year under review was 20.0.

The total number of live and still births was 1,179.

5. Still Births

The still birth rate for Bedford was 0.49 per 1,000 population which may be compared with 0.37 for England and Wales. The corresponding rates for 1,000 total live and still births were 23.7 and 22.4 respectively. In order to eliminate chance fluctuations the figures over a period of five years are given in the following table, from which it appears, that the average figures vary little from those for the country as a whole.

STILL BIRTH RATES

Bedford and England and Wales, 1953-1957

Year	Per 1,000 population		Per 1,000 total births (live and still)	
	Bedford	England and Wales	Bedford	England and Wales
1953	0.31	0.35	19.7	22.5
1954	0.51	0.36	28.1	24.0
1955	0.39	0.33	22.4	23.2
1956	0.43	0.37	20.9	23.0
1957	0.49	0.37	23.7	22.4
Average 1953 to 1957	0.43	0.36	23.0	23.0

6. Death Rate

The uncorrected death rate was 9.4 as compared with 9.9 for the previous year. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the comparability figure of 0.99 by which a corrected death rate of 9.3 is obtained. The death rate compares very favourably with that for the previous year.

7. Causes of Death

Cause of Death							Males	Females
ALL CAUSES							260	279
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	20	6
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	12
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	9
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	22	22
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	22	57
18.	Coronary diseases, angina	...	...	...	...	...	51	32
19.	Hypertension, with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	7
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	20	31
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	12	14
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	14	17
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	19	11
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	19	23
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
25.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	4	6
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

In commenting on causes of death, reference may be made to:

Tuberculosis caused 2 deaths as compared with 8 in the previous year.

There were 105 deaths from Cancer, now a serious cause of illness, of which 26 were of the lung or bronchus.

Diseases attributed to old age caused 254 deaths and bronchitis 30 deaths, the latter including 19 men.

It may be of interest to note that in 1956 the death rate of bronchitis in this country was 18 times higher than in Scandinavia and 11 times more than in the U.S.A. This complaint caused 20.4 million days of incapacity for men and 6.2 million for women in a year.

There were seven fatal road accidents, 6 of which occurred in the Borough. Four were of elderly people; 1 a pedestrian of 27 years; a child of 4 years; and one, a man of 50 years of age, whose death did not occur in Bedford.

The following table shows the number of deaths from motor vehicle and other accidents in the past five years.

	Motor vehicle accidents			All other accidents		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1953	4	—	4	1	6	7
1954	10	—	10	11	3	14
1955	7	2	9	7	8	15
1956	9	1	10	13	14	27
1957	6	1	7	6	7	13

HOME ACCIDENTS

The importance of these has become much more widely known and appreciated. About 700 lives are lost yearly through burning accidents. Thousands are seriously injured. The suffering inflicted is appalling.

All fires should be guarded, little girls should wear pyjamas and not nighties. The use of nylon and terylene for party dresses has much to commend it. Well designed electric fan heaters which can if necessary be placed out of reach of small hands are efficient and safe; furthermore, the air movement produced is beneficial, and the heat is rapidly distributed throughout the room.

As many parents are burning £70-£100 worth of cigarettes every year I do not think that many have the excuse of being without financial resources to prevent their children being burnt.

8. Maternal Mortality

No deaths occurred in connection with pregnancy and childbirth.

9. Infant Mortality

The total number of infant deaths was 22, of which 12 were male and 10 female, giving an infant mortality rate of 19.1 per 1,000 live births over the year, which may be compared with 23.0 per 1,000 related births, the figure for England and Wales.

The table for the past five years given below shows that the figures for Bedford compare well with those for the country as a whole.

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

Year			Bedford	England and Wales
1953	...	...	23.6	26.8
1954	...	...	20.6	25.5
1955	...	...	18.8	24.9
1956	...	...	16.0	23.6
1957	...	...	19.1	23.0
Average 1953-1957			19.6	24.8

The number of neo-natal deaths, or those occurring under one month was 17 corresponding to a rate of 14.8 per 1,000 live births, which may be compared with 14.2, the figure for the previous year.

INFANT MORTALITY BY SEX AND CAUSE

Cause	Under one month		Total (under one month)	Over one month but under one year		Total (under one year)
	M	F		M	F	
Influenza	—	—	—	1	—	1
Gastro-enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	3	1	4	—	—	4
Immaturity (associated immaturity)... ..	5	5	10	—	—	10
Haemolytic disease ...	—	1	1	—	—	1
Other causes	1	2	3	2	—	5

II. PREVENTION OF ILLNESS

1. Preventive Medicine — Fluoridation

Observation by McKay in 1929 that the incidence of dental decay was much reduced if a water naturally containing one or more than one part per million of fluoride had been consumed were confirmed and amplified by Dean in America, Ainsworth in Essex (Maldon), Weaver in South Shields and by much work by Jean Forrest in this country.

As almost all natural waters contain fluoride derived from various rock strata, it was decided to extract the fluoride from suitable rocks and reinforce a low fluoride water to that level shown by observation to reduce caries without any undesirable effect. Suitably machinery to do so safely and effectively had to be designed and the first scheme for adding the desired amount (known as fluoridation) was inaugurated by the United States Public Health Service in 1945 at Grand Rapids. Other schemes at Newburg, U.S.A., and Brantford, Canada, followed quickly.

Fluoride is a normal constituent of not only natural waters but of many foods—fish, honey, etc. It is probable that the fluoride intake of man in civilised countries has undergone a reduction over the years because of sophistication, processing and changed dietary habits. Fluoride is used by the body in the formation of decay resistant dental enamel. The reduction in decay is substantial and of the order of 50-60 per cent or more. As we have a shortage of dentists, which is likely to get worse for some years to come, the need for the rapid introduction of this measure is obvious.

In the U.S.A. good progress has been made and over 30,000,000 people now consume fluoride water.

Doubts are sometimes raised about safety but there is no cause for anxiety as very large numbers of people have consumed two, three or four times as much as the recommended amount all their lives without ill effect on general health. The Medical Research Council sent a team of experienced investigators, including a professor of dental surgery, a dentist with special research experience in fluoride and others, to North America, and their favourable report led to the introduction of the measure into this country. Fluoridation has been supported by such bodies as the American Medical and Dental Associations and the British Dental Association, and by the World Health Organisation.

Fluoridation is usually attacked by the same sort of person who attacked pasteurisation of milk, vaccination and immunisation. A few professional people have opposed the measure. Some of those opposing fluoridation have, I think, done so for personal reasons, dislike of the Public Health Service and so on. It must be emphasized that the original fluoridation areas in the U.S.A. were essentially the handiwork of teams of experts; likewise, any evaluation should be by teams of the appropriate experts. The relationship between fluoridation and bones has had much attention, and comparison of bone analyses and X-rays have been made in fluoridated and non-fluoridated areas. There is no evidence of any relationship between the various forms of arthritis and fluoridation. Some opposition too has come from those whose researches have been disproved. But fluoridation has now convinced expert opinion.

However, I studied the case against the scheme before reporting to the Water and Public Health Committees on the desirability of introducing this measure and pointed out that the building of the new Water Works gave us the opportunity of doing so with a considerable saving over its introduction at a later date. The recommendation was approved and before the measure came before the Council the public were informed of the proposal by means of an interview published in the Bedfordshire Times and by talks to individual groups. The expected 'anti' literature duly arrived, and references to Big Brother, Hitler, etc., were made. Reprints of articles by various cranks were also circulated. Most people were unimpressed and preferred as a source of accurate information the World Health Organisation whose Expert Committee on Fluoridation recently reported as follows:

“ ‘The effectiveness, safety and practicability of fluoridation as a means of preventing dental caries, one of the most prevalent and widespread diseases in the world, is now established.’ ”

“ ‘The opinion is based on a study of hundreds of controlled fluoridation programmes in 17 countries, some of which have been in progress for more than 12 years, and the comment is made that ‘no other public health procedure during the initial stages of its application has had such a background in time or extent.’ ”

“ ‘After describing the observations and experiments made by biologists, physiologists, toxicologists, chemists, veterinarians, pathologists, physicians and dentists in many countries of the world, the World Health Organisation Committee concludes:

“ ‘All of these findings fit together in a consonant whole that constitutes a great guarantee of safety; a body of evidence without precedent in public health procedures.’ ”

“ ‘Efforts to promote oral hygiene and dietary control have not themselves solved the problem and, the Committee adds, ‘The potential value of fluoridation is, therefore, of special interest.’ ”

These comments are similar to the previous reports and findings of our own workers and those of the Medical Research Council.

2. Other Preventable Diseases

We now have prophylactic measures to prevent or lessen the severity of smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis. Many parents have taken advantage of these measures but there are still many unprotected children. It is worthy of note that diphtheria is still a deadly disease: a small child resident in Bedford died from this disease despite treatment.

It is disappointing to note that many infants are not vaccinated against smallpox. At this age the procedure causes little inconvenience and revaccination later likewise, whereas primary vaccination as an adult may cause a sore arm and general upset. In these days of increasing travel vaccination will be required sooner or later. Smallpox (variola major type) in the unvaccinated carries a high mortality and if not fatal leaves lifelong pits on the face. I hope that more infants will be vaccinated in the future. Prevention is not only better than cure but in some cases cure is impossible.

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

MOTHER	Health defects corrected before pregnancy		Family doctor
	Antenatal, labour and postnatal care		Family doctor, midwife, health visitor or clinic
INFANT	1st year	Smallpox vaccination.	Family doctor
		Whooping Cough and Diphtheria immunisation. Poliomyelitis vaccination.	Family doctor or Public Health Service
PRE-SCHOOL CHILD	Are you aware of dangers in the home? Scalds—supervision and technique. Burns—fireguards; care of matches. Poisoning—safe storage of iron tablets, tranquillisers, sedatives, etc. Danger on the road . . . training.		Do it yourself !
SCHOOL CHILD	5 years. Booster dose for diphtheria immunisation. Poliomyelitis vaccination		Family doctor and School Health Service
	13 years. B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis		School Health Service
ADULTS	Early correction of obesity. Smoking is the important factor in causing lung cancer: this is certainly a preventable but not often a curable disease. Discourage your children from starting this habit. Chronic bronchitis is to a large extent caused by the polluted air in towns. Your co-operation in the Clean Air Campaign is essential.		

III SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Many social problems now receive and require attention from a large number of Local Government Officers and voluntary workers, for example, Health Visitors, Mental Health workers, Public Health Inspectors, the N.S.P.C.C. and W.V.S. It is obvious that there are dangers here of overlapping and waste and of different advice and confusion, and finally of each thinking that the other will cope leading to lack of supervision when it is most needed; nor are these theoretical dangers—tragic cases have occurred.

The benefits of specialisation are plain for all to see but the growth of separate autonomous departments is definitely a retrograde step. Professor Semple in "New Aims in Preventive Medicine" sees "no place for separate agencies in the social approach: the co-ordinated health team will produce the most effective and lasting results." It is pleasing to note that these recommendations are in practice in this County. Co-ordinating Committees, under the Chairmanship of the Divisional Medical Officers, enable the various organisations to meet and discuss the problems and each learns something from the divergency of opinion and varying approach.

Preventing the break up of problem families is, of course, the main aim of a Co-ordinating Committee. The break up of families is a great social evil for the following reasons: children who are institutionalised as a result of broken homes—separation, divorce or imprisonment—are more likely to become maladjusted, which is evident in various ways but particularly in respect of failure to make marriage work in later life leading to divorce and more institutional care for their children in turn, abnormal personality as shown by delinquency, illegitimacy, prostitution and also behaviour problems. The chances of the marriage being salvaged subsequently are very small, and children of broken and problem families in their turn create more social problems of the same sort. The break up of a moderate sized family can easily cost the country over a thousand pounds per annum and a large one very much more. The problem family is mainly a medico-social problem and it is, therefore, important that the Health Visitor service should play a leading role in the handling of these families, particularly as young children are usually involved. Prevention must be based on causation which is a combination of factors: (i) quality and quantity of parental care, (ii) health, (iii) intelligence, (iv) education, both general and special. The part played by health is obvious, and in the problem family group continuity of treatment is often lacking because of lack of intelligence or stability or both. The part played by intelligence was shown in an investigation by Dr. Mary Sheridan on a hundred neglectful mothers. This showed that 70 per cent were mentally retarded whereas the natural incidence would be only about 12 per cent: only two of these had attended special schools. The shortage of special schools for E.S.N. children is, unfortunately, widespread. (E.S.N.=educationally sub-normal).

Preventive action should include: (i) the early ascertainment of backwardness, (ii) adequate special school accommodation, (iii) adequate supervision in particular by Health Visitors, (iv) re-training, both

in the home by Health Visitors and specially selected and trained Home Helps, and for men at re-training centres. These are methods which have been used successfully but only on a very small scale to date.

A related problem which has caused a great deal of worry is that of juvenile delinquency. It is from the backward group of children, particularly when brought up in unsatisfactory conditions in respect of parental care, that the delinquent comes, and from the delinquent, all too often, develops the persistent criminal. We know the susceptibles; cannot the combined approach of educator, school doctor, psychiatrist and police see that the early tendency to delinquency is detected and checked?

A factor which has received far too little attention is the failure of many fathers to face up to their parental duties which they leave to their wives—this with particular reference to the teenage boy. Why is this? The modern mother is, I think, far better informed by means of press, radio, television, infant welfare clinics and other sources of information than many fathers, and consequently in some cases the father, his opinions defeated, retires from the fray. Sometimes the father is well intentioned but his activities are such that he has little contact with his son. Social workers usually have only the mother to work on and she then must influence her husband.

I do not think that there is any coincidence in the rise of delinquency and homosexuality in civilised states in recent years.

What can be done? Large scale research and a really intensive effort to utilise what knowledge we have, to give the coming generations a healthier orientation is urgently required.

One of the difficulties increasingly encountered is the extent to which some families are in difficulty with hire purchase. Some who are already in financial difficulties with one firm undertake fresh commitments with others. Families in which the earnings are of the order of £12 per week have accumulated large debts, in one case as much as £200.

Hire purchase, if there is no substantial initial payment, is a very real deterrent to acquiring the habit of saving with all that entails in self discipline. It may be argued that to legislate for the few who get into difficulties is a mistake but this argument is not very convincing as most people do not behave in a certain way because of legislation, but because to behave otherwise would be stupid or anti-social or both, and much legislation is directed at a small section of the population. A substantial down-payment is, I think, desirable, and furthermore there should be a more effective enquiry by vendors.

IV. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. General

With few exceptions all houses have an internal water supply and are connected with the sewers.

2. Water Supply

(A) QUALITY AND QUANTITY

I am indebted to the Water Engineer for the following information relating to the water supply.

- (i) The water supply to the Borough has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Hosepipe restrictions were imposed for the period 23rd June to 12th July 1957, but there were no pressure reductions.

- (ii) A summary of the results of bacteriological examinations of the raw water and of the water going into supply is given below:—

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS, 1957

Source	No. of samples	Presumptive coliforms			B. Coli, Type I			Plate counts		
		% positive	% with 1800+ orgs.	Av. orgs. per 100 ml.	% positive	% with 1800+ orgs.	Av. orgs. per 100 ml.	No. of samples	Av. orgs. per ml.	
									37° C.	20° C.
Raw Water ...	57	100	40*	1176+	100	23	821	57	777	2670+
Water to Supply	689	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	50	9	4
Town samples after repairs ; from new mains, etc. ...	247	1.2‡	Nil	—	Nil	Nil	Nil	—	—	—

* All the 1800+ samples were obtained during the winter or after heavy rain.

‡ Represents 3 samples; in each case repeat samples were coliform free.

- (iii) Water not likely to have plumbo-solvent action. Samples taken twice a month contained no measurable amount of lead.

- (iv) All work on old and new mains is followed by chlorination and check bacteriological sampling by the Waterworks Chemist.

Safety

Waterworks personnel are, where appropriate, submitted to blood tests to exclude the possibility of any being carriers of typhoid.

A summary of chemical analyses of the raw water and the fully treated water is given in the following table.

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD—WATER DEPARTMENT
CHEMICAL ANALYSES, YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1957

	Raw water		Treated water	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
Reaction (pH)	7.6–8.8	8.2	7.3–8.0	7.6
Turbidity (silica scale)	4–164	27	Less than 1.0	Less than 1.0
Colour (hazen units)	12–204	38	2–20	4
Carbonate hardness as CaCO ₃ ...	156–270	232	168–256	218
Non-carbonate hardness as CaCO ₃	82–192	128	98–182	142
Total hardness	252–452	360	280–436	360
Free carbon dioxide	1.03–8.94	2.97	8.14–25.2	11.16
Total solids	420–600	526	—	530
Chlorine in Chlorides	28–45	34	30–48	36
Electric Conductivity (reciprocal megohms per c.c. at 20°C) ...	480–720	662	530–710	670
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (free and saline Ammonia)	0.01–0.56	0.06	Nil–0.2	0.004
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.16–1.36	0.34	0.03–0.23	0.106
Nitrogen in Nitrites	—	0.03	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.5–4.8	2.6	0.4–4.18	2.4
O ₂ absorbed in 4 hrs. at 26.7° C....	1.4–6.6	3.1	0.6–2.0	1.2
Iron	0.01–0.2	0.03	Less than 0.02	Less than 0.02
Copper	Trace	Trace	Nil–0.1	Less than 0.05
Lead	Trace to Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Zinc	Trace to Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Calcium	93–160	131	102–160	131
Magnesium	5.3–12	7.9	5.0–12.5	7.9
Fluorine	0.11–0.36	0.21	0.11–0.35	0.2
Sodium as Na	—	22	—	20
Sulphates	84–196	138	115–190	140
Silica	2.4–17.0	8.5	—	8.1
Phosphates	0.24–0.7	0.39	0.19–0.72	0.31
Aluminium	—	Nil	Less than 0.1	Less than 0.1
Anionic detergent (as Manoxol O.T. after Longwell and Maniece)	0.10 to 0.45	0.24	Trace to 0.35	0.17

Results in parts per million.

The following tables show the result of examinations undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS, 1957 FULLY TREATED WATER

No. of samples of water in the course of distribution	Presumptive coliforms		Faecal coliforms	
	Pos.	av. orgs. per 100 ml.	Pos.	av. orgs. per 100 ml.
151	4	4	—	—

Cases where coliforms are found are referred to the Water Department for further investigations. No evidence of pollution dangerous to health was discovered. All repeat samples were negative.

(B) UNTREATED RAW WATER

22 samples were taken from the Borough Pumping Station. The following table shows the results of these samples.

Presumptive coliforms per 100 ml.		Faecal coliforms per 100 ml.	
Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
18,000+	250	9,000	50

The results are to be expected for a low-land river such as the Ouse.

(C) SUPPLY TO DWELLING HOUSES

All houses are supplied from public water mains direct except 16 houses which are supplied by 6 standpipes.

(D) SWIMMING BATHS AND PADDLING POOL

Samples were taken from six officially controlled or generally recognised bathing places in the river and one paddling pool. The results are as follows.

No. of samples	Presumptive coliforms per 100 ml.		Faecal coliforms per 100 ml.	
	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
501	18,000+	Nil	18,000+	Nil

The results are comparable to those shown above of samples taken of the raw water before treatment at the waterworks.

(E) WELL WATER

Seven samples were taken from wells in the Borough, as under:—

Site	No. of samples	Presumptive coliforms per 100 ml.		Faecal coliforms per 100 ml.	
		Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
Allotments	... 3	3,500	2	25	0
Factories ...	... 4	180+	Nil	180+	Nil

Two sources in the town gave satisfactory bacteriological results. It should be noted, however, that the water in the shallow wells on the allotments is not suitable for drinking purposes.

V. HOUSING

1. General

For details of the work carried out under the Housing and Public Health Acts reference is made to the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

The following list shows in summary form the work undertaken in dealing with totally unfit houses or parts of houses.

(A) UNFIT DWELLINGS

Number of houses or parts of houses represented to Local Authority as unfit and incapable of being made fit at a reasonable expense	156*
---	-----	-----	----	------

Number of houses demolished—

(a) As a result of Demolition Order	7
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	---

(b) Corporation property	57
--------------------------	-----	-----	----

Number of houses closed	2
-------------------------	-----	-----	---

*140 of these are owned by Bedford Corporation.

(B) SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

In August, 1955, the Council commenced a 5 year Slum Clearance Programme. Details given below show the progress which has been made up to 31st December, 1957 (i.e., approximately the half-way stage).

Number of houses included in Slum Clearance Programme (as revised during 1957)	526
--	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number of additional houses represented as unfit	...	7
		<hr/> 533

Number of houses demolished	101
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----

Number of houses closed	6
-------------------------	-----	-----	---

	<hr/> 107
--	-----------

Number of houses still to be demolished or closed	...	426
---	-----	-----

Of the 426 houses 66 were vacant and awaiting demolition at the end of 1957. Since that date some M.A.P. bungalows have been demolished and further houses have been vacated in readiness for demolition. It is also proposed to demolish 56 houses in the Central Area in the near future.

2. New Units of Accommodation

During the years 1945 to 1957 the following numbers and type of new units of accommodation were completed

NEW DWELLINGS AND CONVERSIONS, 1945-1957

	(1) Prefabricated Dwellings (Council)		(2) Permanent Dwellings (Council)	(3) Permanent houses erected by builders	(4) Conversions : Houses into flats		(5) Other adapta- tions. Additional units of accommo- dation	(6) Total additional units of accommo- dation provided
	Tem- porary	Perma- nent			(i)	(ii)		
1945-1956 totals	180	158	1,940	790	132	298	14	3,248
1957	—	—	208	186	5	14	—	403
Totals ...	180	158	2,148	976	137	312	14	3,651

NOTES.—The totals in columns (6) are obtained by adding the figures in columns (1), (2), (3) and (5) as they stand, and in the case of column (4) by subtracting the figures in column (i) from those in column (ii) to find the number to be included in the total. This last procedure may not always be quite accurate, but gives a sufficient approximation.

3. Housing Requirements

(A) APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

I am informed by the Housing Manager that the number of applicants for houses on the books of the Corporation at the end of the year was 1,484.

The following shows the number of applicants at the end of each year over the past ten years.

Year		No. of Applicants
1948	...	2,389
1949	...	2,262
1950	...	2,328
1951	...	2,593
1952	...	1,674*
1953	...	1,584
1954	...	2,109
1955	...	1,579
1956	...	1,783
1957	...	1,484

*The number of applicants shows a considerable diminution on the number for the previous year, namely 2,593. This reduction is largely due to steps taken by the Housing Committee to bring the lists up-to-date by communicating with all applicants and striking off the list all those who for one cause or another no longer desired to maintain their applications.

In spite of the large number of houses built in the last few years the number of applicants for houses shows no great reduction.

(B) HOUSING FOR OLD PEOPLE

Whilst special provision is required for those suffering from some severe incapacity the ordinary house should be so designed that we are not handicapped unduly by the usual disabilities of old age, nor should we forget that grandparents visit and stay.

Old age is often accompanied by some limitation of movement from arthritis, and switches, plugs, handles and meters should not require bending down to reach floor level or stretching up into inaccessible places. The necessity for standing on top of steps or chairs should be avoided. Letter boxes should be provided at a suitable height. Door handles should be of the lever type and baths should have grab rails to assist in getting out. Steps should be avoided, and if this is not possible should be shallow. Surely fireguards should be designed as an integral part of the fireplace fitting so that they function efficiently and look pleasant.

VI. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk

(A) DAIRIES AND DISTRIBUTORS

The following table gives the number of dairies and distributors as it stood at the end of the year.

Premises registered as dairies in the area	...	...	13
Milk distributors registered in area—			
(i) trading from premises within area	...	...	60
(ii) trading from premises outside area only	...	...	6
Total	...	...	79

(B) MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

The following shows the licences granted under the above named Orders.

	Number of Licences		
	Raw Milk	Pasteurised Milk	Sterile Milk
Tuberculin Tested—Dealers	35	55*	27
Supplementary	4	4	1

* Two of these licences were in respect of establishments in the area at which pasteurising was carried out. All the dealers dealt in Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.

The following table shows the results of the laboratory examinations of specially designated milk. To speak generally the results obtained from samples of specially designated milk are satisfactory. When any failure to maintain the required standard occurs the Inspectors are ready to advise.

Source	Grade	Number of samples	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Dairy ...	Pasteurised	11	10	1
	T.T. Pasteurised	4	4	—
Roundsmen ...	Pasteurised	47	47	—
	T.T. Pasteurised	46	42	4
	T.T. (Raw)	1	1	—
	Sterilised	9	9	—
Schools ...	Pasteurised	107	104	3
Shops ...	Pasteurised	46	42	4
	T.T. Pasteurised	28	27	1
	T.T. (Raw)	5	3	2
	Sterilised	33	32	1
Totals ...		337	321	16

Investigations were undertaken in the cases of samples reported upon as not satisfactory and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

2. Meat

(A) INSPECTION

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the meat condemned during the year.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1957

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and in- spected	2,899	120	448	6,994	6,799	17,260
<i>All diseases except tuber- culosis and cysticercosis</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	—	1	11	10	18	40
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	539	15	1	64	451	1,070
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	18.59	13.33	2.68	1.06	6.9	6.43
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	3	—	1	1	3	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	109	10	1	—	123	243
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.86	8.33	0.45	0.01	1.85	1.45
<i>Cysticercosis—</i> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	22	3	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	22	3	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

MEAT WEIGHT CONDEMNED

The following table shows the total weight of diseased and unsound home killed meat condemned in 1957.

Class of Animal	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases			Total lbs.
	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	
Cattle (excluding Cows) ...	3	109	4,697	—	539	8,789	13,486
Cows ...	—	10	670	1	15	802	1472
Calves ...	1	1	184	11	1	537	721
Sheep and Lambs ...	1	—	109	10	64	873	982
Pigs ...	3	123	2,115	18	451	2,729	4,844
Totals ...	8	243	7,775	40	1,070	13,730	21,505

(B) SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Seven slaughter houses were licensed by the Council for use by private butchers, a reduction of one over the previous year. The owner of this slaughterhouse did not apply for renewal of the licence.

(C) SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1954

At the end of December, 1957, there were 27 slaughtermen licensed under these Acts.

3. Other Foods

The following table shows the amount of foods condemned:—

Class of food	lbs.
Bacon ...	1,380
Bananas ...	1,999
Cheese ...	59
Chickens (110) ...	302
Cooked Meats ...	204
Dessicated coconut ...	10
Fish ...	1,622
Gerkins (1 barrel) ...	70
Goose (Danish) ...	8
Ice Cream ...	234
Imported Meat ...	380
Margarine ...	24
Peanuts ...	191
Sausages ...	53
Sweets ...	46
Toffee ...	120
Tinned Goods—various commodities (3,619 containers)	5,584
Total lbs. ...	12,286

4. Ice Cream

The following statement shows the number of premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of ice cream.

PREMISES REGISTERED

Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sale of ice cream manufactured elsewhere	...	...	...	...	...	181
						<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	184
						<hr/>

The following table shows the results of testing of ice cream in accordance with the agreed bacterial standards.

						Number of samples	Percentage in grades
Grade 1	...	...	...	...	...	20	45.5%
Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	20	45.5%
Grade 3	...	...	...	...	...	4	9.0%
Grade 4	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
						<hr/>	
Total	...	...	...	...	...	44	
						<hr/>	

5. Adulteration of Foods

(A) SAMPLES SENT TO PUBLIC ANALYST

Fifty-one samples of milk and fifty-eight samples of other foods and drugs were purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst. The following table gives details:—

TABLE OF SAMPLES TAKEN

Commodity	Number of Samples						Total
	Formal			Informal			
	Gen- uine	Adult- erated	Total	Gen- uine	Adult- erated	Total	
Beecham's Powders ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Black Pudding	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Borwick's Baking Powder	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Brawn	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Bread and butter ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Butter	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Chili Sauce	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Cream of Tartar	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Danish Buke with Ham ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Dressed Crab	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Faggott	—	—	—	2	—	2	2
Fish Cakes	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Haslet	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Horseradish Sauce ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Hijodo Santo Marino (Fish)	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Ice Cream	—	—	—	5	—	5	5
Liver and Bacon Paste ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Luncheon Sausage... ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Meat Paste	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Meat Pasty	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Milk	—	—	—	44	—	44	44
Milk—hot	—	4	4	—	—	—	4
Minced Chicken	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Pepper	—	—	—	5	—	5	5
Pineate Cough Syrup ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Polish Ring Sausage ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Roll and Butter	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Rum	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Salad Cream	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Salami	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Salmon Creme	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Sausage—Beef	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Pork	1	—	1	4	—	4	5
Savaloy	—	—	—	2	—	2	2
Self Raising Flour ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Soothing Powders ...	—	—	—	4	—	4	4
Sweets	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Table Jelly	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Tomato Ketchup	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Whisky	3	—	3	—	—	—	3
Milk—bottle broken in transit	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Milk—Hot, bottles broken in transit... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	5	4	10	97	—	99	109

ADULTERATED SAMPLES

Serial Numbers of sample		Commodity	Nature of Adulteration	Remarks
Formal	Informal			
C831		Hot Milk	Added water at least 25.7 per cent.	Proceedings taken. Fined £10 in each of two summons. Total £20 with 28/- costs.
C838		Hot Milk	Abstracted fat at least 3 per cent.	Vendor cautioned.
C841		Hot Milk	Added water at least 8 per cent.	Proceedings taken. Absolute discharge on pay- ment of 8/- costs.
C848		Hot Milk	Added water at least 37 per cent. Abstracted fat at least 32 per cent.	Proceedings taken. Fined £1 on each of two summons. No costs awarded

(B) GERBER TESTING OF MILK

Samples of milk are also tested in the Public Health Department by the Gerber Test, which gives a rapid indication of the quality of the milk tested and enables the Inspector either to give advice to the retailer or producer, or to take further samples for submission to the Public Analyst.

The following are the figures for the year.

Total number tested	...	...	...	12
Satisfactory	...	...	10	
Not satisfactory	...	...	2	

(c) UNSOUND FOOD, OR OTHERWISE NOT UP TO STANDARD

In addition to the articles purchased and sent to the Public Analyst, the following table gives a list of food, unsound or unsatisfactory in other ways, to which the Public Health Committee give consideration.

Article of Food	Source of Complaint	Nature of Contamination	Action taken
Pork pie	Private individual	Mould	Warning letter
Pork pie	Private individual	Mould	Vendors prosecuted. Case was proved but dismissed by Magistrates. Appeal heard by Divisional Court, who remitted case to Borough Justice with a direction that they must convict second defendants who were fined
Milk	School	Glass in bottle	Vendors prosecuted. Fined £10 with costs
Pork pie	Private individual	Mould	Vendors prosecuted. Fined £20
Milk	School	Glass in bottle	Vendors prosecuted. Fined £20
Milk	School	Glass in bottle	Vendor prosecuted. Case dismissed
Milk	School	Glass in bottle	Vendor prosecuted. Case dismissed
Milk	School	Sand in 3 bottles	Vendor prosecuted. Fined £15
Margarine	Private individual	Nail	Manufacturers cautioned
Pork pie	Private individual	Mould	Vendor prosecuted. Fined £10
Milk	Private individual	Maggots in bottle	Vendor cautioned
Jam	Private individual	Wood	Manufacturers cautioned
Fruit pie	Private individual	Mould	Vendors premises visited. Two more fruit pies seized and condemned by Magistrates. Vendors prosecuted. Fined £5
Pork sausage	Private individual	Nail	Vendors prosecuted. Fined £10
Bread	Private individual	5 pieces of greyish blue cardboard embedded in bread	Vendors cautioned

Article of Food	Source of Complaint	Nature of Contamination	Action taken
Chicken	Private individual	Unsound	Vendors cautioned
Milk	School	Glass in bottle	Vendors prosecuted. Fined £30
Bread	Private individual	Foreign body	Vendors cautioned
Pork luncheon meat	Private individual	Rancid	Vendors cautioned
Fish fingers	Private individual	Worm	Manufacturers cautioned
Milk	School	Glass in bottle	Vendors cautioned
Potatoes	Private individual	Unsound	Proceedings could not be instituted as informant refused to give evidence
Steak and kidney pie	Private individual	Mould	Vendors prosecuted. Firm dismissed from case. Manager fined £10
Drinking chocolate	Private individual	Moths	Vendors cautioned
5 fowls and 1 rabbit	Routine inspection	Decomposed	Seized and condemned by Magistrate. Vendors cautioned
Turkey	Routine inspection	Decomposed	Seized and condemned by Magistrate. Vendors cautioned
Castor sugar (1lb.)	Private individual	Taste of salt	12% common salt, equivalent to 2 ozs. Manufacturers notified. No further action

(D) OTHER FOOD COMPLAINTS

In addition, the following food samples were submitted to the Public Analyst following upon complaints received from the purchasers.

Article of Food	Nature of Complaint	Analyst's report and Action Taken
Pineapple slices	Unpleasant taste	Not subject to harmful metallic contamination
Corned beef	Unpleasant taste and smell	Decomposed when received by Analyst
Corned beef	Unopened tin of sample referred to above	Satisfactory—normal smell, flavour and texture

VII. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Infectious Diseases, other than Tuberculosis

(A) GENERAL STATISTICS

The following table shows in summary form the number of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the number of deaths from these diseases.

DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1957

Disease	Total cases notified	Total deaths registered
Scarlet Fever	75	—
Whooping Cough	42	—
Diphtheria	1	1
Measles	1,205	—
Acute Pneumonia	83	31
Meningococcal Infection	4	—
Acute Poliomyelitis—		
Paralytic	6	—
Non-Paralytic	2	—
Acute Encephalitis—		
Infective	1	—
Post Infectious	1	—
Dysentery	100	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	125	—
Smallpox	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—
Food Poisoning	11	—
Jaundice	112	—
Erysipelas	3	—
Malaria	—	—
Influenzal Meningitis (Local requirement only)	—	—

The following table gives the number of infectious diseases notified divided into groups of age and sex.

	Scarlet fever		Whoop- ing cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles		Dip- theria		Dysen- tery		Menin- gococ- cal infec- tion	
					Paraly- tic		Non- para- lytic									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	18	12	—	—	1	—	1	—
1 year ...	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	55	58	—	—	1	1	1	—
2 years ...	1	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	83	70	—	—	3	2	—	—
3 years ...	5	3	6	1	—	—	—	—	90	93	—	1	1	2	1	—
4 years ...	7	5	4	1	—	—	1	—	81	72	—	—	—	3	—	—
5-9 years...	26	23	8	5	1	—	—	—	289	256	—	—	23	15	—	—
10-14 years ...	1	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	6	10	—	—	11	9	—	—
15-24 years ...	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	7	—	—
25 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	3	9	—	1
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	3	6	—	—
Total (all ages)	40	35	22	20	2	4	2	—	629	576	—	1	46	54	3	1

	Acute pneumonia		Smallpox		Acute Encephalitis				Enteric or typhoid fever		Paratyphoid fevers	
					Infective		Post-infectious					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years ...	9	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years ...	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 years ...	8	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
45 to 64 years ...	17	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	11	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	50	33	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—

	Erysipelas		Food poisoning		Puerperal Pyrexia		Ophthalmia neonatorum		Jaundice		Malaria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	4	—	—
5-14 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	41	34	—	—
15-44 years ...	—	—	3	1	—	125	—	—	11	12	—	—
45-64 years ...	—	3	2	4	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 years and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Age unknown...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	—	3	6	5	—	125	1	—	59	53	—	—

(B) INDIVIDUAL DISEASES

Scarlet Fever

There were 75 cases compared with 32 for the previous year. This disease continued to be of a very mild type.

Whooping Cough

There were only 42 cases compared with 220 in the previous year. The popularity of combined whooping cough diphtheria immunisation is probably of some significance in this respect.

Diphtheria

An Italian family returning to this country noted whilst journeying through France that their son aged 3 years 11 months was unwell. They reached Bedford on the 19th October and, as the child failed to improve, called in the family doctor. The child was admitted to Spittlesea Hospital as a clinical case of diphtheria. Laboratory investigations confirmed the presence of a virulent diphtheria organism.

Despite treatment the child developed circulatory failure and died on the 3rd November.

Investigation of contacts showed that two were carriers and treatment with erythromycin was instituted. Subsequent swabs showed that the carrier state had been cleared. Those affected were excluded from school and work until this had been achieved. Immunisation of contacts was carried out. In addition there was newspaper publicity, which included an Italian language section reporting the case and advising immunisation. The general practitioners in the area were informed by letter. The Italian Consular Agent was also informed and helped to publicise immunisation.

No further cases occurred.

Diphtheria is thus a disease which can kill despite all the modern drugs, antibiotics, and so on: it is, however, a preventable disease. All children should be immunised during the first year of life and again on starting school as a routine.

Poliomyelitis

There were six paralytic and two non-paralytic cases. Three of these were, by reason of age, not eligible for vaccination. The others, although eligible, had not been vaccinated.

Dysentery

There were a hundred cases, mainly school children living south of the river. The disease was usually mild to moderate in character. Control measures were instituted, the most important being exclusion of cases and hand hygiene before handling food.

Paratyphoid Fever

A case of paratyphoid B occurred in a child. A history of drinking from a small polluted stream south of the Borough boundary was obtained. Efforts to isolate paratyphoid B from this stream were unsuccessful, but I have no doubt that this was the source of infection.

Jaundice

There were 112 cases, again mainly in school children living south of the river.

Influenza

The figures of sickness claims supplied to me by the Manager of the local branch of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance and the figures of school attendance tell of the rise and fall of the epidemic. The peak period was much the same in both schools and adult population, the poorest school attendance coming first by about a week.

(1) New claims for Sickness Benefit:

Weekly period ending	3.9.57	...	...	322
„ „ „	10.9.57	...	...	420
„ „ „	17.9.57	...	...	453
„ „ „	24.9.57	...	...	648
„ „ „	1.10.57	...	...	931
„ „ „	8.10.57	...	...	1,066
„ „ „	15.10.57	...	...	1,093
„ „ „	22.10.57	...	...	884
„ „ „	29.10.57	...	...	542
„ „ „	5.11.57	...	...	450
„ „ „	12.11.57	...	...	347
„ „ „	19.11.57	...	...	337

(2) School attendance:

				No. on roll	Percentage attendance	
Week ending	13.9.57	...		7,203	...	93
„ „	20.9.57	...		7,222	...	85.8
„ „	27.9.57	...		7,242	...	70
„ „	4.10.57	...		7,240	...	65.2
„ „	11.10.57	...		7,245	...	78.5
„ „	18.10.57	...		7,245	...	88
„ „	25.10.57	...		7,238	...	91.1
„ „	1.11.57	...		7,234	...	91.8
„ „	8.11.57	...		7,242	...	93.6
„ „	15.11.57	...		7,242	...	92.5
„ „	22.11.57	...		7,243	...	92.2

The clinical features of the disease were common to other outbreaks in the country. The Asian virus was isolated from specimens sent to the Public Health Laboratory early in the outbreak. In an effort to prevent relapses and complications children who had had the disease were discouraged from playing football for a period on their return to school.

No school child died from the disease in Bedford Borough.

Food Poisoning

(a) Food poisoning notifications (corrected) as returned to Registrar General:

1st Quarter	...	...	—
2nd Quarter	...	...	—
3rd Quarter	...	...	11
4th Quarter	...	...	—
Total			11

(b) 'Cases otherwise ascertained:

1st Quarter	...	...	—
2nd Quarter	...	...	—
3rd Quarter	...	...	4
4th Quarter	...	...	—
Total			4

(c) Fatal cases:

1st Quarter	...	...	—
2nd Quarter	...	...	—
3rd Quarter	...	...	—
4th Quarter	...	...	—
Total			—

Particulars of Outbreaks

	No. of Outbreaks		No. of Cases		Total No. of cases
	Family outbreaks	Other outbreaks	Notified	Otherwise ascertained	
Staph. aureus ...	5	2	10	4	14
Agent not identified	—	—	—	—	—

Single Cases

	No. of Cases		Total No. of Cases
	Notified	Otherwise ascertained	
Agent identified ...	—	—	—
Agent not identified ...	1	—	1

Salmonella Infections, not food-borne: Nil.

REPORT ON INDIVIDUAL FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

	Outbreak No. 1	Outbreak No. 2
1. Food causing outbreak	Cooked pressed beef	Two pork pies
Agent causing outbreak	Staphylococcus aureas	Not known
2. Cases forming outbreak which occurred from 1st July, 1957, to 3rd July, 1957, in Outbreak No. 1, and 8th August, 1957, in Outbreak No. 2	Notified 10 Otherwise ascertained ... 4 Fatal — Total 14	Notified 1 Otherwise ascertained ... — Fatal — Total 1
3. Clinical features. Average interval ingestion to onset—2 to 5 hours in Outbreak No. 1, and not known in Outbreak No. 2	Main symptoms—Diarrhoea and vomiting Severity of illness—slight to moderate Duration of illness—2 to 7 days	Main symptoms—Diarrhoea and vomiting. Severity of illness—not known (patient admitted to an Isolation Hospital) Duration of illness—not known
4. Result of Laboratory investigation	Cases—faeces — Staphylococcus aureas Food samples — Staphylococcus aureas Food handlers—nasal swabs — Staphylococcus aureas Other — not taken	Case—faeces — not taken Food samples — not taken (none available) Food handlers — not taken Other — not taken
5. Origin and preparation of food causing illness	Pressed beef made at and purchased from a local butcher's shop	Two pork pies manufactured elsewhere but purchased from a local shop
6. Places at which food causing illness was consumed	Private dwelling houses Estimated number of consumers at risk — 18	At work, the day following purchase. Estimated number of consumers at risk — 1
7. Probable origin of infection or contamination of food	One employee had small septic focus and had helped in the preparation of the pressed beef. Laboratory investigation revealed a staphylococcus aureas of the same bacteriophage type as that found on the meat and in the faeces of those affected	Not known

Puerperal Pyrexia

125 cases occurred, and most of these were notified by a local hospital. It is not necessarily an alarming condition but is notified in accordance with the Regulations.

2. Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of new cases and the number of deaths in their age groups.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES AND DEATHS

Age Periods					New Cases				*Deaths			
					Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	...	...	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	...	...	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	...	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	...	...	4	5	—	2	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	...	...	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	...	...	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
55	...	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	1	—	—	—
Totals ...					24	22	2	5	1	—	—	1

*NOTE.—These figures, compiled from local records, while agreeing in total with those of the Registrar-General, show a variation in cause of death.

The death rate was 0.03 per thousand which may be compared with the rate of 0.16 for England and Wales.

TUBERCULOSIS—CASES NOTIFIED DURING LAST 5 YEARS

Year	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
1953	48	25	3	4	80
1954	25	26	1	7	59
1955	27	34	3	7	71
1956	23	12	4	—	39
1957	24	22	2	5	53

The following table for the last 5 years shows the decline in the death rate which has taken place in the country generally. The preceding table generally shows a notable decrease in the cases notified.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATES

Year	All forms			Respiratory			Non-respiratory		
	No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000		No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000		No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000	
		Bedford	England and Wales		Bedford	England and Wales		Bedford	England and Wales
1953	8	0.15	0.20	8	0.15	0.18	0	—	0.02
1954	6	0.11	0.18	6	0.11	0.16	0	—	0.02
1955	4	0.07	0.15	2	0.04	0.13	2	0.04	0.01
*1956	8	0.14	0.12	8	0.14	0.11	0	—	0.01
*1957	2	0.03	0.16	1	0.02	0.09	1	0.02	0.01
Average 1953-57	6	0.10	0.16	5	0.09	0.13	0.6	0.01	0.01

*NOTE.—These figures, compiled from local records, while agreeing in total with those of the Registrar-General, show a variation in cause of death.

This disease is acquired from cases of pulmonary disease who bring up the bacillus in their sputum, or from infected milk from infected cows. The building up of tuberculosis free herds, the tuberculin tested herds giving T.T. milk, is an important step, but as other diseases can also be conveyed by infected milk the ideal is tuberculin tested pasteurised milk. Pasteurisation (heat treatment) kills all pathogenic organisms and will make a dangerous milk safe.

The human case must be discovered as early as possible and given suitable treatment to reduce or abolish infectivity and cure the disease. The patient must co-operate in all phases of his treatment. Adverse factors are poor nutrition, poor housing, overcrowding and poor working conditions and heavy smoking. Resistance can be raised by avoiding the factors just mentioned and by giving B.C.G. vaccination to children during the last year or so at school. Some of the adverse factors are under the control of the individual: difficult individuals do not co-operate, fail to take the prescribed treatment, and do not attend for X-rays. The importance of this very small group is, however, disproportionate to their numbers.

Increasingly the problem is one of dealing with the hard core of unknown infectious cases, many of whom live in cheap lodging houses and in houses for the vagrant population.

In 1956 a review of radiographs in South East London showed an incidence of 3.6 per thousand overall but 14.2 per thousand amongst those living in common lodging houses and similar institutions. In September 1957, of 245 tuberculous immigrants examined no fewer than 205 had arrived within the previous 12 months suffering from the disease.

Another review of 32,000 X-ray films showed that the tuberculosis death rate was 5-7 times higher among immigrants than amongst the general population.

Infectious patients are dangerous. They can kill or permanently disable those they infect. If they are so lacking in common sense as not to co-operate fully in their treatment some form of restraint might be considered, such as the loss of welfare state benefits. Food handlers and servers, barmen, receptionists and bus conductors and others who meet many of the public should be X-rayed yearly as a routine. Immigrants from Eire, Pakistan, India, Italy, West Indies, etc., should be X-rayed and tuberculin tested before entry. Those requiring it should be given B.C.G.

Why are these simple things not done? Canada, Australia, and other Commonwealth countries demand that immigrants should be investigated before setting sail. Tuberculosis can and should be eliminated.

3. Poliomyelitis Research

Following a request from the Public Health Laboratory Service investigations into the prevalence of poliomyelitis virus in the faeces of normal children have been made and are still in progress. Parents of young children have been approached by members of the Public Health Department to provide samples and have co-operated excellently.

4. Poliomyelitis Vaccination

Under arrangements made by the Bedfordshire County Council 1,429 children living in Bedford received a full course of two injections of vaccine under the scheme drawn up by the Ministry of Health which commenced in 1956. Since the commencement of this scheme a total of 1,623 children have been vaccinated.

The publicity concerning this disease has had unfortunate effects. It has increased public anxiety and created some fear of the American vaccine. It must be remembered that this was an advance made by Dr. Jonas Salk, an American, long before we produced one of our own, and we have had the benefit of American experience. I am in agreement with a recently published letter to the medical press by Drs. Geffen and Tracy:—

“Many of us are very critical of the propaganda which has surrounded the issue of poliomyelitis vaccine which, at the end of April, 1958, had resulted in an acceptance rate in children under 15 years of age, of only 52 per cent. If safety alone is to be considered, it would appear that about 200 million doses of Salk vaccine untested in England have been used in the U.S.A., Canada, and elsewhere without untoward effect. However pro-English we may be, I think we should accept the fact that a better safety test than this would be hard to find.”

In comparison an acceptance rate of over 90 per cent has been reported in Canada. The age groups covered should eventually include those in the thirties. This will be a formidable undertaking.

Experience in this country has shown that vaccination is almost always without after effects and is superior in this respect to other immunising agents and most substances when given by injection.

5. Verminous Infestation

The following table shows the work carried out during the year.

NUMBER OF PERSONS AND VERMINOUS HEADS EXAMINED AND TREATED AT THE CLEANSING STATION DURING 1957

	Bedford	County
Pre-School Children	2	—
School Children	13	2
Adults	2	—

No cases of scabies were treated.

VIII. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 SECTION 47

1. Persons in Need of Care and Attention

This Section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who

(a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and

(b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

A widow of 86 years of age who lived alone and was removed to hospital on a Magistrates Order in May, 1953, and retained in hospital on renewals of the Order, died on 17th June, 1957.

Investigations were undertaken in six cases of elderly people during the year who were in probable need of care and attention, but it was not necessary to take any legal action, as it was possible to obtain improvements in their living conditions by other means.

2. Care of the Aged

The care of the aged continues to occupy a good deal of the time of the staff of the Public Health Department. When old people are not receiving adequate care from their families or other persons the policy is of bringing all services to bear, including those administered by the County Council, to prevent such deterioration of conditions as would make removal to hospital necessary.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

(A) MORTUARY

The following table shows the work done in connection with the Mortuary. The total number of bodies received, 128, showed a decrease on that of the previous year by 12. Seventy-three of the bodies received came from outside areas.

BODIES RECEIVED

Post mortems carried out			Post mortems not carried out		
Bodies received from Borough	Bodies received from other areas	Total	Bodies received from Borough	Bodies received from other areas	Total
50	73	123	5	—	5

(B) DOMESTIC BATHS, COMMERCIAL ROAD

The following table shows the attendances made during the year as compared with 1956.

				1957	1956
Men	...	...	...	1,270	1,240
Women	...	...	...	612	549
Total				1,882	1,789

It will be observed that there is an increase of 93 attendances in the 1957 figures over those for the previous year. There is thus a larger need for the provision of these facilities.

X. CONCLUSION

It is helpful to consider a comparison between curative and preventive medicine. In the former, the patient suffering from some disease, feeling unwell or suffering pain or disability seeks advice or treatment; thus those practising curative medicine start with the great advantage of some degree of co-operation and willingness. Those practising preventive medicine have to persuade those who are well to take some action (possibly involving discomfort, physical or financial) to prevent something which might never happen to them individually. It would appear, therefore, that whereas the physician or surgeon can rely on the personal

recommendations from his successful cases, the specialist in public health must rely on his own powers of persuasion.

Also, the physician or surgeon by dealing with individuals on a "take it or leave it" basis rarely, if ever, encounters the type of opposition which may be aroused by the introduction of such measures as vaccination, pasteurisation of milk, immunisation, and latterly fluoridation of water. The relationship between the two branches of medicine tends to be impaired by the fact that public health was in my day (and possibly still is) badly taught in most medical schools and was regarded as uninteresting. Public health can contribute much by collecting data and applying those methods tried and proved which might be summarised as the epidemiological technique (how many? where? what social group? what occupation? what environmental factors?) and the application of statistical methods to the data: but the figures must be collected, and this becomes impossible unless one can persuade a large number of people to collect them for you.

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1957

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.

September, 1958.

To HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report for the year 1957, a year of great activity and progress.

In February the Committee discussed the Clean Air Act, 1956, very thoroughly, and authorised the setting up of the first atmospheric pollution deposit gauge and smoke filter and volumetric SO₂ apparatus, in order to establish the level of pollution in the centre of the Borough. The Committee recommended the adoption of the Model Byelaw requiring the installation in new houses of appliances capable of burning smokeless fuels, and this Byelaw became operative on the 1st March, 1958. In addition it was decided to form a Clean Air Committee consisting of representatives of adjoining Local Authorities, of the main industries, nationalised industries, women's organisations, British Railways and other interested persons, in order to promote better co-operation in the implementation of the Clean Air Act. Since the deposit gauge was placed on site, namely for 5 months, the average pollution determined by the deposit gauge is 12.07 tons per square mile. In addition, figures obtained from the Electricity Generating Board indicate that there is no room for complacency and that vigorous efforts must be made by all concerned to prevent further pollution and if possible reduce the existing pollution level.

In order to promote greater interest and understanding of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, a public meeting was arranged to which all members of the catering trades in the Borough were invited. As a result of the response from this meeting the Committee authorised the holding of a course of lectures in the autumn of 1957 and spring of 1958, and seven members who sat the examination were awarded certificates. Further courses are to be held in conjunction with the Education Authority.

Several prosecutions for offences under the Food Hygiene Regulations and Food and Drugs Act were authorised, and the resulting proceedings were successful. A number of legal proceedings were due to unsatisfactory storage of meat products. Far too much of this commodity is still exposed in unrefrigerated windows or cabinets. I feel that the time has now arrived for temperature control of made-up products such

as pork pies, brawn, meat and fish pastes, savoury ducks, etc., to be enforced by legislation. Many of the food establishments in the Borough possess excellent refrigerated food storage facilities which allow attractive displays with safety.

The Slum Clearance Programme has been expanded, particularly in the central area of the Borough. The practice of the Council in purchasing slum and low standard property is to be commended as by this means the demolition and re-housing can be accelerated considerably. The number of houses included in the Slum Clearance Programme was increased from 305 to 533.

The introduction of the Rent Act, 1957, has resulted in increased work, although in the first instance many requests were principally for information. The Act appears to be having the desired effect in that the majority of owners are endeavouring to carry out the necessary repairs as speedily as possible. More than half the applications for Certificates of Disrepair could not be granted in full as many items other than disrepair were included and serious nuisances were omitted, necessitating the service of notice for these items.

Houses Let in Lodgings were regularly inspected throughout the year, and as there are almost 4,000 Commonwealth and other nationals in the Borough the size of the problem can be ascertained. The scheme by which Certificates of Availability of Accommodation are issued in connection with Italian immigrants worked well. It is regretted that such a scheme cannot be arranged in connection with living accommodation for all workers and their families from outside Britain who come into this Borough. By means of these Certificates gross overcrowding and other unsatisfactory housing conditions could be avoided and result in fewer complaints being made to the Department. Only by constant supervision can this class of premises be kept at a reasonable standard.

In August one of the Public Health Inspectors contracted poliomyelitis and was absent from duty for almost three months.

The Public Health Committee agreed to the appointment of a student Public Health Inspector in order to encourage entrants to the profession which was most gratifying.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to the members of the Council, particularly to the members of the Public Health Committee, for their appreciation and co-operation in the work which has been undertaken; to the Medical Officer of Health and all the other Chief Officers and their staffs for their willing help and advice; and to my Deputy, the Public Health Inspectors, the clerical and outdoor staff for their conscientious and loyal support throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. AVISON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Annual Report

of the Chief Public Health Inspector

I. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

This report shows the nature of the duties carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during the year 1957, and includes particulars of sanitary inspections in the area; in conjunction with details referred to in the report of the Medical Officer of Health relating to Housing (Section V), and Inspection and Supervision of Food (Section VI).

1. Summary of General Inspections and Administrative Duties

Housing

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1957	161
Houses requiring repairs	5
Houses totally unfit for human habitation	156
Houses repaired	20
Premises inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936 ...	233
Premises where nuisances discovered	90
Premises where nuisances abated	133
Revisits to houses under Housing and Public Health Acts	579

Overcrowding (not including Houses Let in Lodgings)

Visits	10
Houses found to be overcrowded	—

Infectious Diseases

Investigations undertaken	1,065
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Verminous and other Conditions

Visits to verminous premises	37
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Drainage

House drains tested on payment of fee	6
Drains tested or inspected on complaint	91
Revisits during repairs or reconstruction	227

Visits to

Houses Let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	861
Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	191
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Fish Frying Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,400
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Other Shops and Premises where Food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,602
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Work places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops under Section 38, Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Premises where animals are kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Offensive trades premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Manufacturers and Stores—Rag Flock and other filling materials	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sundry nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	988
Borough Mortuary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Baths and Treatment Centre	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Food and Drugs

Samples submitted to Public Analyst:—								
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other foods and drugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Samples examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service:—								
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	337
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Samples examined at the Public Health Department:—								
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Total number of samples obtained for examination								509

Rats and Mice Destruction

Inspection of premises by Public Health Inspectors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Inspection of premises by Rodent Operators	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	646
Visits for treatment, including revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,125

Rent Restriction Acts

Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	179
Inspections for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73

Sewers							
Samples for pathological examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Smoke Abatement							
Observations made	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Interviews with managers, stokers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Inspection of boiler plant	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Survey Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Merchandise Marks Act							
Visits to traders' premises, stalls and vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
General and Office Routine							
Visits for interviews with owners, agents, builders, tenants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	425
Interviews at office with owners, agents, builders, tenants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	395
General Administration							
						Informal	Formal
Notices served:—							
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
Housing Repairs and Rents Act	...	...	...	...	...	10	3
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	70	39
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	14	—
						—	—
Total number of notices served	...	...	...	...	...	105	43
						—	—

2. Detailed Nature of Work carried out as a Result of Inspections

(A) DWELLING HOUSES

General Improvements							
Defective roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Eaves gutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective walls, brickwork and pointing made sound	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Defective doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Defective stair treads repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Handrails to stairs provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Glazed sinks provided in lieu of defective sinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chimney heads or pots repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective ceilings made sound	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Water Closets

Structural works undertaken	...	...	...	...	...	5
New compartments built	...	...	...	...	...	—
Separated from barns	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pedestal pans provided in lieu of defective pans	...	...	...	...	...	14
Fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	11

Yards

Houses at which paving was repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Nuisances arising from keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	—
Sanitary dustbins provided	26

Infectious and other Diseases

Rooms and contents disinfected	34
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Disinfestation

Rooms and contents disinfested	112
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(B) OTHER HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

Houses let in Lodgings

Additional sinks provided with water supply	12
Additional cooking stoves provided	...	...	...	...	20
W.C. compartments repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Additional W.C. compartments provided	...	...	...	...	—
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	15
Rent books supplied	...	...	...	...	7

(C) FOOD PREMISES

Public Houses and Hotels

W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Urinals provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Washbasins provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other improvements	...	...	...	...	...	1

Food Preparing Rooms

General cleansing and redecoration	...	...	...	...	9
Washbasins provided	...	...	...	...	17
W.C. compartments cleansed	...	...	...	...	—
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	2
Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	16
W.C. compartments repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
First Aid equipment provided	...	...	...	...	1
Clothing lockers provided	...	...	...	...	3
Benches provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Artificial lighting provided to W.C. compartments	...	...	...	...	13
“Now wash your hands . . .” notices provided	...	...	...	...	1
Soap, towels and nail brushes provided	...	...	...	...	9

Places of Public Entertainment	
Premises reconstructed	1
Repairs and redecoration carried out	2

Slaughterhouses	
Regular periodic limewashing and general cleansing	7

(D) OTHER PREMISES

Factories	
Sanitary accommodation requirements complied with:—	
(a) Provided	—
(b) Repaired	4
Regular periodic limewashing and general cleansing	2
Other defects remedied	2

Shops	
W.C.s repaired, etc.	4

Drainage (all premises)	
Drains repaired	168
Drains wholly relaid	5
Blocked drains cleared	286

II. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Housing

(A) HOUSING ACT, 1957

During the year the Housing Act, 1957, came into force. This Act consolidated various enactments relating to housing with the exception of certain financial provisions.

(i) House Inspections

Detailed inspections have been made at 161 houses. At 5 of the houses inspected, it was considered that they could be made fit at a reasonable expense and informal notices were served upon the owners to carry out repairs to the properties. During the year 20 informal notices were complied with, most of which were outstanding from 1956. In addition, it was necessary to serve one statutory notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957. Four statutory notices were complied with including 3 which were served in 1956.

At the remaining 156 houses, it was not considered that these properties could be made fit at a reasonable cost and official representations that the premises were unfit were made by the Medical Officer of Health.

(ii) Demolition or Closure of Unfit Houses

Considerable progress has been made with regard to the Slum Clearance Programme. It will be appreciated that after inspection and representation of unfit properties, several months may elapse before the

the houses can be demolished. In the case of privately owned properties, the owner must have full opportunity to appeal against the decision of the Local Authority, and so far as properties owned by the Local Authority are concerned, in order to obtain the subsidy in respect of slum clearance, it is necessary to obtain the approval of the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The Minister may decide to have the houses inspected and in January 1958 an Inspector of the Ministry did visit Bedford to consider 56 houses. He agreed that they should be demolished.

Approval had previously been given for the demolition of 84 houses. These local authority properties were the M.A.P. bungalows in the Mile Road Area and houses situated in the Central Area of the town where redevelopment is taking place.

After approval for demolition is given by the Minister (or in the case of privately owned houses where demolition or closing orders are made) it is necessary for the occupants of the houses to be rehoused. This is no easy problem and the Housing Committee and the Housing Manager are to be congratulated on the progress they have been able to achieve.

The following table gives details of slum clearance progress during 1957.

	Owned by L.A.	Privately Owned	Total
Number of houses represented as unfit	140	16*	156
Number of demolition orders made ...	—	2	2
Number of houses demolished ...	57	7‡	64
Number of closing orders made ...	—	2	2
Number of houses closed	—	2	2
Number of families rehoused ...	116	7	123
Number of persons rehoused	415	17	432

*8 demolition orders and 3 closing orders made in 1958.

‡includes 5 where demolition orders were made in previous years.

(iii) Houses Let in Lodgings

At the end of the year, 375 premises were known to be occupied as Houses Let in Lodgings. Most of the occupants were foreign nationals, although there has been a rise in the number of coloured British Nationals, i.e. British West Indians, Parkistanis and Indians. Italian nationals are the largest group and it must be said that their living conditions have greatly improved mainly due to what seems to be a general desire for owner occupiers to improve their property.

All of the Houses Let in Lodgings are visited and at some of the houses it is necessary to maintain fairly constant supervision in order

that living conditions remain reasonable and to ensure that where overcrowding occurs, immediate action is taken to reduce the number of occupants in the house.

10 Informal Notices were served, 3 requiring the provision of additional amenities and 7 in respect of overcrowding. With one exception these notices were complied with by the end of the year. 14 notices outstanding from the previous year were all complied with during 1957 although in 3 cases it was necessary to serve statutory notices before overcrowding was abated.

Certificates—Availability of Accommodation

Before Italian families are permitted to enter the country and proceed to Bedford, the premises they propose to occupy are inspected and, if considered suitable, a certificate of availability of accommodation is issued. During the year 162 applications for certificates were received and dealt with as follows:

Approved	...	...	...	134
Refused	...	...	...	27
Withdrawn	...	...	...	1

Furnished Accommodation—Rents

Investigations were made at one House Let in Lodgings regarding the rents being charged for furnished accommodation. The Public Health Committee submitted this case to the Rent Tribunal who decided to reduce the rents from a total of £30 15s. 0d. per week to £16 15s. 0d. per week.

Rent Books

The Bedford Corporation Act, 1956, requires that an alien occupying rooms in a House Let in Lodgings shall be provided with a Rent Book and the Act sets out the information required to be inserted in the Rent Book. The owners of 4 houses were communicated with drawing attention to the Act and Rent Books were subsequently provided.

Rent Books are now required by the Rent Act, 1957, for furnished accommodation where rent is payable weekly under any contract to which the Furnished Houses (Rent Control) Act, 1946, applies.

(iv) Overcrowding

Apart from Houses Let in Lodgings, previously mentioned in this report, no cases of overcrowding were discovered during the year. The one case outstanding at the end of 1956 has been abated.

(v) Purchase of Property

The policy of the purchase of houses of low standard has been continued, such houses being mainly situated in the central re-development area. 31 houses were purchased by this Department of which 8

were unfit, 13 of low standard, and 10 others. Negotiations are still being conducted for the purchase for the Corporation of more properties in such areas.

The purchase of property by occupiers is still taking place on a fairly large scale with the result that house ownership has enabled them to carry out improvements and to maintain the houses on a higher standard. A large number of searches are made at this Department under the Land Registry Act, from which it may be assumed that property changes hands at a high rate.

(vi) Houses without Secondary Means of Access

It is estimated that there are 98 older type houses in which access from the yard or garden to the street can only be made by the front door, thus fuel and household refuse has to be carried through the house. A large number of these houses are situated in re-development areas and should eventually be demolished.

(B) RENT ACT, 1957

This Act came into force on 6th July, 1957, and by the end of the year, 179 interviews had been held with landlords and tenants regarding the provision of the Act. The vast majority of interviews were in respect of property still in control, i.e. houses with a rateable value of £30 or less, although information has been sought by occupants of de-controlled houses. Apart from these enquiries it is known that a large amount of information has been sought from and given by The Citizens Advice Bureau.

73 applications for Certificates of Disrepair had been received by the end of the year. When considering these applications the local authority is only permitted to include on a Certificate of Disrepair such items as the tenant of the house had included on "Form G" which he is required to send to the landlord prior to applying to the local authority.

Quite often the tenant omits to include on Form "G" all the defects existing at the house and the Public Health Inspector finds it necessary to take action under the Public Health Act to have serious defects remedied.

The following table shows the action taken under the Rent Act by the end of the year:

Number of applications for Certificate of Disrepair	...	73
Number of applications refused	... ..	1
Number of applications approved (30 whole, 42 in part)		72
Number of undertakings from owners accepted	... ..	46
Number of certificates of disrepair issued	... ..	5

In 21 cases where Certificates of disrepair had been approved the three weeks period allowed to an owner to give an undertaking to carry out works of repair had not elapsed at the end of 1957.

One application for the cancellation of a Certificate of Disrepair was received towards the end of December but was not dealt with until 1958.

(c) HOUSING ACT, 1949

Improvement Grants .

Under the Act it is possible to obtain financial assistance in order to effect improvements to private houses, such as provision of baths with hot water supply, washbasins with additional lavatory accommodation, or reasonable extensions to provide additional housing accommodation. The Borough Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for the administration of this scheme, but during the course of house inspection advice has been given by the Public Health Inspectors on the possibilities of obtaining grants for such purposes. 48 grants were made.

Most applications for improvement grants were made by owner-occupiers of houses, but landlords, with a few exceptions, do not appear to desire to take advantage of the scheme in view of restrictive rents.

(d) PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

233 houses were inspected under the Act for minor defects or nuisances. All complaints received were investigated and quite frequently the Public Health Inspectors were able to take immediate action to abate nuisances. It was necessary however to serve 63 informal notices and 15 statutory notices in order to have repairs carried out.

(e) HOUSING AMENITIES

(i) Baths

Plans for provision of bathrooms at 71 houses were submitted and approved.

It is now estimated that there are some 4,175 houses in the Borough without fixed baths. Many of these houses are situated in proposed redevelopment areas, or are either unfit or of low standard, and therefore the provision of baths is not reasonable.

(ii) Water Supply

The following table shows houses without internal water supply.

HOUSES WITHOUT INTERNAL WATER SUPPLY OR SINKS

Situation	Without internal water supply	Without sinks	Means of water supply
*St. John's Place (Almshouses) ...	2	2	2 taps in yard connected to public main
*St. Loyes Street (Almshouses) ...	8	8	3 taps in yard connected to public main
Biddenham, Ford End	6	5	Standpipe from Town main provided during 1957
Totals	16	15	

* Scheduled for demolition.

(iii) Closet Accommodation

Apart from the eight almshouses in St. Loyes Street, which are included in the Slum Clearance Programme, every house in the Borough is provided with a separate closet.

During the year 2 houses at Goldington where the occupants shared 1 W.C. were demolished.

It is estimated that 440 houses including 45 almshouses, have W.Cs. situated at the bottom of the garden or yard. W.Cs. in this situation are not ideal, especially at houses where aged people reside.

All water closets have flushing cisterns.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

The drains at 6 private houses were tested on payment of a fee. This fee was increased from 15/- to £2 2s. 0d. as from April 1957. Defects were located at all premises and these were subsequently remedied by the owners of the houses. In one case arrangements were made with an owner for the Corporation to carry out works of drainage reconstruction and for the cost of so doing (£151 2s. 8d.) to be recovered by instalments from the owner.

91 drains were tested on complaint or by reason of rat infestation and at 45 houses works of reconstruction or repairs to drains were carried out. In addition 286 blocked drains were cleared during the year.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 24, notices were served in respect of 17 houses. These notices inform the owner that the local authority propose to carry out repairs and/or improvements to a public sewer and that the cost of so doing will be recharged to the owners of houses served by that sewer. In 4 cases complete renewal of the sewer was necessary and this involved relaying the house system to its junction with the main sewer in the road.

There are now 29 houses and 7 factories in the Borough not connected to the public sewer.

3. Household Refuse

(A) PROVISION OF SANITARY DUSTBINS

Seven informal and seven statutory notices were served during the year requiring the provision of dustbins. With one exception these notices were complied with during 1957.

(B) REFUSE COLLECTION

The collection of refuse is under the control of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, and modern type vehicles are used. The disposal of refuse is by tipping at disused gravel pits adjoining the old smallpox hospital.

4. Inspection of Premises (Other than Houses)

Public Health Act, 1936

(A) OFFICES

There are at least 300 office blocks in the Borough, and from observation made during inspections it can generally be stated that the premises are being maintained in a satisfactory condition. As far as is known there are none situated in basements.

(B) PUBLIC HOUSES

Structural improvements to the bars and sanitary conveniences were carried out at one public house, and similar works of reconstruction have been commenced at two other licensed premises.

(C) HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES

In the Borough there are 8 Licensed Hotels, together with a small number of privately owned boarding houses and hotels.

It may be stated that generally the hotels are maintained in a satisfactory state, although it would appear that at times there is a shortage of accommodation, there being only approximately 320 beds available.

(D) PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

There is one theatre licensed by the Town Council, and also four cinemas licensed by the Bedfordshire County Council. In addition there is a Civic Theatre in the Town Hall. Minor repairs were carried out at two of these premises, whilst in the case of the County Theatre the reconstruction of the premises was completed and the theatre re-opened. This reconstruction has improved the appearance of that part of Midland Road and has provided vastly improved amenities for the patrons of the theatre.

Various halls are used for dancing, whist drives, concerts, etc., and in general these premises are satisfactorily maintained though occasionally it is necessary to request that cleansing of sanitary accommodation be carried out.

(E) RIVERS, STREAMS AND PONDS

During the year drainage works were carried out in the Elstow Road area and since completion no complaints have been received regarding the stream which flows from Elstow Road to Cardington Road.

Complaints of dumping of a minor nature have been made in respect of some other small streams in the town and these have been cleaned out from time to time.

(F) PLACES WHERE ANIMALS ARE KEPT

On the outskirts of the town, mainly on allotments, there are several piggeries and these have been maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition. A number of complaints are received regarding the keeping of poultry in back gardens and action is taken if it is considered that the poultry are being kept in such a manner as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance.

5. Food and Drugs Act, 1955

(A) FOOD PREMISES

The following schedule shows the number of food premises in Bedford together with their classification by type of business.

Trade						Number in Main Trades
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	27
Banana Merchants	...	...	...	...	...	1

Biscuit Depots	...	...	...	...	1
Brewery and Soft Drink Manufacturers	...				3
Butchers	...	...	...	...	51
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...		39
Canteens	...	...	...	...	46
Chemists	...	...	...	...	22
Confectioners (Flour)	...	...	...		33
Confectioners (Sugar)	...	...	...		53
Continental Food Stores	...	...	...		8
Corn and Flour Dealers	...	...	...		5
Clubs	...	...	...	...	15
Dairies	...	...	...	...	14
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	17
Fishmongers—Retail	...	...	...		5
—Wholesale	...	...	...		2
Flour Mills	...	...	...	...	1
Food Storage Depots	...	...	...		3
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...		56
Grain Silo	...	...	...	...	1
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...		158
Hotels (Licensed)	...	...	...		8
Public Houses	...	...	...		93
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...		7
Sweet and Chocolate Manufacturers	...				2
Off Licences—Alcoholic	...	...	...		18
Total					689

In addition there are 40 food stalls on the market square, as under:—

Confectionery	...	...	...	...	3
Fish	...	...	...	...	4
Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	2
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...		30
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	1

The following table shows the number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Act for the following trades:—

Manufacture of Ice Cream	...	...	3
Storage and/or Sale of Ice Cream	...		181
*Preparation or manufacture of sausage, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food			53

** Includes 17 fish frying premises*

A total of 1,820 visits was made to food premises (excluding slaughterhouses) which on the whole were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Inspections were also made of the canteen facilities provided at the County Agricultural Show and at the Town Regatta. Various improvements have been suggested for the Cardington Road ground where the Agricultural Show is held and it is hoped that these will be made for the 1958 show.

The following table shows the result of proceedings which the Public Health Committee authorised to be instituted in respect of offences against the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Offence	Result of Proceedings
Smoking in a Food Room	Fined £5
Open food placed on ground and smoking whilst handling food	Fined £4
Open food placed on ground	Fined £2

A further case of smoking in a food room was reported to the Committee but in view of the fact that the person concerned was dismissed by his employer no proceedings were instituted.

(B) WORKS AND SCHOOL CANTEENS

Visits have been made to these canteens, which were found to be maintained satisfactorily.

(C) SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The seven private slaughterhouses in the Town have been well maintained.

(D) MARKETS

The arrangements for the modernisation of the market stalls and facilities were well in hand by the end of the year. The modernisation is to include the provision of new stalls and covers, and the tenants will be required to provide impervious coverings of the stall boards and suitable protection of the food stuffs where food is sold. Hot and cold water will be readily available at the new conveniences, and the new ablution room and the whole appearance of the market will be greatly improved.

III. SHOPS ACT, 1950—SECTION 38

This Department administers the above named Section of the Shops Act to ensure that the provisions relating to the health and comfort of shop workers are adhered to, and for this purpose 74 visits were made. Minor defects only were discovered.

Plans for all new shops are examined by this Department to ensure that they comply with all necessary requirements.

IV. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

With the passing of the Clean Air Act, 1956, a great deal of interest was stimulated in this subject, and authority was given to set up the first Deposit Gauge Station in the Borough. In addition it was decided to station a continuous smoke filter and volumetric sulphur dioxide apparatus in the centre of the Borough. The former apparatus is used to determine the matter deposited from the atmosphere, and the latter the suspended matter and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. Unfortunately this latter piece of apparatus could not be put into operation during the year.

It was discovered that the Central Electricity Authority were making recordings from three deposit gauges in the Borough and permission was obtained from the Authority to use the recordings for comparison with the Bedford No. 1 Station. The graph shows the deposited matter in tons per square mile at the four stations, and although these recordings are not excessively high there are no grounds for complacency.

V. PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS

1. Moveable Dwellings

(A) AT FAIR AND CIRCUS GROUNDS

Caravans used by the showmen attending the Statute Fairs in Commercial Road and Goldington Green, and fair and circus grounds in Cardington Road were inspected and found to be maintained in a very cleanly condition.

(B) PRIVATE SITES

Licenses were granted to occupiers of caravans on the following sites:—

Site	No. of caravans
Paddock, 1 Goldington Green	4
The Swan, Goldington Road	3
The Crown Public House, Goldington Road ...	1
Farm, Bury Walk	1
r/o Lido Garage, Honey Hill Road	1
Bedford General Hospital—North Wing ...	1
	—
Total	11
	—

(C) CHALETS

Visits were also made during the year to riverside chalets off Cardington Road, which are occupied during the summer months, and these were found to be satisfactory.

(D) INDUSTRIAL SITES

Inspections have been made of the temporary huts and caravans on the sites of the new Power Station, Barker's Lane, and the new Water Works in Clapham Road. These are occupied by workmen and are kept in a satisfactory condition. There is ample sanitary accommodation and water supply.

VI. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

1. Premises Inspected and Treated

The following table shows the number and type of premises inspected and treated.

	Type of property				
	Local authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	Business	Total
Number of properties inspected—					
(a) on complaint	15	252	1	61	329
(b) on survey	19	191	—	107	317
Number of properties found to be infested with rats—					
(a) major	—	—	—	—	—
(b) minor	15	122	1	22	160
Number of properties found to be infested with mice	1	133	—	37	171
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	15	252	1	61	329
Number of re-visits to infested premises	55	601	4	136	796
Number of notices served—					
(i) treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) structural works	—	—	—	—	—
Number of block control schemes carried out			—		

56 contracts were entered into during the year and the sum of £71 15s. 0d. was received by the Borough Treasurer for such work.

2. Sewers

The policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is for half-yearly treatment to be undertaken, but in order to determine where treatment is required at the beginning of the year test baits are laid in a number of the sewer manholes. The sewers which were most infested were chiefly those situated in the older parts of the Borough.

The following table shows the number of manholes baited during the year and the results of such treatment.

Number of test baits laid	...	...	...	124
Number of manholes baited	...	...	...	813
Number of manholes showing prebait take	...			396
Number of manholes showing no take	...	...		417

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry concerned, after poison baits are laid no further inspection is undertaken until the next half-yearly treatment is commenced, so it is not possible to give any estimate of the number of rats destroyed immediately after treatment.

3. General

As pointed out in previous reports the work of eradication of rats and mice, although not a profit making service, is regarded as an important one as much damage to property and food-stuffs is prevented and the possible risk of epidemic disease is checked. The only charge made for rodent control treatment is 7s. per hour per man to business premises, a formal contract being entered into. No charge is made in respect of dwelling houses.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries organised a one day Refresher Course for rodent operators in November. This was held at Bedford and all the Council's Rodent Operators attended.

VII. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 50

Burial or Cremation of the Dead

As no arrangements for burial had been made by relatives or friends it was necessary for the Department to arrange for the burial of the bodies of three persons. Details are as follows:—

No.	Age	Sex	Cost of funeral	Recovery of expense
1	61	F	£ s. d. 12 12 6	Death grant £6 recovered
2	20 mths	F	7 5 0	Death grant £1.16.0 recovered
3	1 day	F	1 10 0	Full cost recovered

VIII. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections

The following tables show the number of factories on the register, the number of inspections made and the number of defects discovered and the results of action taken.

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	No. on Register	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	44	49	3	—
* (ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	269	64	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ...	41	27	—	—
Total	354	140	6	—

* Many of these are small factories where only a few persons are employed.

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which proceedings were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	4	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	3	2	1	1	—
Total	10	8	1	5	—

2. Outwork

The following shows the number of outworkers on the register:—

Nature of Work				No. of Persons
Wearing apparel (making, etc.)	...	...	...	25
Household linen	...	...	...	3
Curtains and furniture hangings	...	...	...	3
Furniture and upholstery	...	...	...	1
Total				32

IX. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

1. Disinfection

Steam disinfection of quantities of bedding, clothing, etc., was undertaken for bedding firms and national and local authorities and undertakings, for which charges were made to cover expenses. A sum of £3 5s. 0d. was received in this connection plus £1 17s. 6d. for collection and delivery. Disinfection is also undertaken, free of charge, for householders in cases of notifiable and other diseases.

2. Disinfestation

The work of destroying insect pests of all types is carried out by this Department, and no charge is made for this service. The general method is by the spraying of liquid insecticides, or powder, containing D.D.T. and other chemicals. The results of treatment were satisfactory in all cases. There were no serious infestations.

The following table shows the number of infested premises treated, together with the types of infestation.

Premises		Nature of Vermin	Number of Premises
Houses—Council	...	Bugs	11
	...	Ants	7
	...	Wasps	1
	...	Beetles, etc.	34
Houses—privately owned	...	Bugs	3
	...	Ants	11
	...	Wasps	29
	...	Beetles, etc.	20
Business premises	...	Bugs	—
	...	Ants	1
	...	Wasps	4
	...	Beetles, etc.	4
Total		...	125

At 13 houses, in addition to the above, it was found necessary to remove and destroy filthy bedding and clothing, and at some the bedding was removed for steam disinfestation.

X. OTHER ACTS AND ORDERS

1. Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are only five premises at which rag flock is used by the furnishing trade, and as this material was supplied with guarantees of cleanliness no samples were taken.

2. Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act governs the licensing and the conditions under which pet animals are kept for sale; there are four premises and one market stall registered. From a hygienic point of view the premises are being maintained in a satisfactory condition.

3. Offensive Trades

Old Metal and Marine Stores

There are three traders who deal in rags and bones (an offensive trade) as well as scrap metal and salvageable items. Also there are four other traders who deal in old metal and marine stores only. On visiting, the premises were found to be satisfactorily maintained.

In addition, the local authority maintains a salvage depot at Newnham, under the supervision of the Borough Engineer.

4. Agriculture Act, 1956

Section 3 of this Act is enforceable by local authorities and relates to sanitary accommodation. Satisfactory conditions existed during 1957.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Building Plans

In conjunction with the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department all plans for new buildings or alterations to existing premises deposited for approval by the Town Planning Committee are examined to ensure that they comply with the Acts and Byelaws concerned, and if any adjustments are required these are undertaken before submission to the Committee.

2. Public Conveniences

The public conveniences in the town centre are controlled by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, while those situated in the Parks and Recreation Grounds are under the supervision of the Parks Superintendent. The alterations in St. Paul's Square were completed during the early part of the year and the conveniences re-opened to the public.

3. Harpur Trust Almshouses

In order to assist the appropriate Committee in filling vacancies at these almshouses the Housing Manager and myself continued the policy of selecting from the applicants suitable persons for the above named houses, and visiting where found necessary before making recommendations.

4. Public Health Education

Talks have been given to various organisations and to students from local training colleges regarding Public Health Inspectors' duties and food hygiene.

In addition, the Committee authorised the holding of a series of lectures on Food Hygiene to food handlers in the Borough and adjoining areas. These lectures were held in the autumn and terminated in the spring of 1958. The lectures were given by the Medical Officer of Health, the Bacteriologist and Pathologist at the local Hospital, and the Public Health Inspectors. Seven of the students were successful in gaining diplomas which were presented by the Mayor. From this small beginning it is hoped to continue similar courses each year in conjunction with the Education Authority at the Mander College. The value of such lectures is not only to the food handlers but also to the Public Health Inspectors, in that a feeling of goodwill is created with the students which is evident during routine visits to food premises.

During the year it was possible to organise a course for Smoke Inspectors approved by the Royal Society of Health at the Mander College. The course was arranged primarily to enable Public Health Inspectors serving with the Borough Council and adjoining Authorities to take the Smoke Inspectors' Examination of the Royal Society of Health. The lectures were given by the Chief Public Health Inspector and a Marine Engineer employed at a local Engineering Works, and twelve students completed the course of lectures. With the growing awareness of the dangers of atmospheric pollution it is essential that the Public Health Inspectors should be able to deal with the problems which will arise as a result of the passing of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

